

Minutes of the February 23, 2026 Board Meeting of the Evening Garden Club (EGC)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church with EGC president Nancy Mandel presiding. Board members present were Al Shay, Janet Magedanz, Jane Helfen, David Mandel, Cathy Kerr, and Becca Smith. Carrie Ottow attended as a guest.

Minutes: A motion passed to approve the January 26, 2026 board meeting minutes.

Financial Report: A motion was passed to accept the January 2026 financial report. Total EGC assets were \$16,815.22 as of January 31, 2026.

Grants Fundraising Member Survey: Fundraising chair, Carrie Ottow, presented an updated member survey which she, Kathleen Rochester, and Cory Koos have been working on. As the currently budgeted amount for grants is not enough to cover grant requests, the survey will gather member opinions about grants in general, and what activities members would be willing to take part in. Survey updates were suggested and a motion was passed to make this survey available to members. Information will be sent out via Trumpetvine.

Grants Status: Jane Helfen, from the grants committee, reports that four grant applications have already been received. Flyers have been placed around town, and the committee plans to meet on March 18th to review all applications. The application may be placed on EGC's Facebook and Instagram pages, and a request for information regarding Administrators on these accounts will be sent via Trumpetvine. The grants application is also found on the EGC website. Carrie Ottow and Janet Magedanz will meet to verify amounts posted for grants and will share this total with Jane Helfen.

Proposed Updated Membership Application: Nancy Mandel and Kathleen Rochester worked together to make changes to the EGC membership application. It was determined that our club is officially named the Evening Garden Club (EGC) and not Corvallis Evening Garden Club, as it is sometimes called. The updated membership form will be sent to our webmaster to post on the website and will also be added to the upcoming newsletter.

Insights Into Gardening Table: Al Shay, Kristin Anderson, and Adrienne Guy manned the EGC/HNP table at the Insights Into Gardening event which took place on February 07, 2026. Al reports there was a good turnout and that three nurseries participated. Al also shared that he met with Santiam District director, Jean Chapin earlier in the month to discuss collaboration among the local clubs.

Offer of Assistance from Spaeth Lumber: Nancy Mandel shared a letter from the Spaeth Lumber manager, Tanya Miller, offering support for EGC. Possible collaboration on raised bed material for HNP and pollinator bed projects were discussed. Al Shay and Cathy Kerr will reach out to Tanya to see what sort of support she has in mind.

Becoming Our Own 501(c): Janet Magedanz shared discrepancies and lack of transparency at the OSFGC level. A motion was made to leave OSFGC and pursue our own 501(c)(3) at a cost of approximately \$200.00. A discussion among the board ensued, and aside from saving on insurance costs, there would be little benefit in having our own 501(c)(3). Janet will gather

information from OSFGC regarding disbursements, budgets, tax returns, and negotiation of insurance costs. As the current \$5.00 per member insurance amount is written in OSFGC bylaws, it may take some time to address this issue. Janet plans to collaborate with local garden clubs and will obtain contact information from Jean Chapin. A motion was made and passed to postpone the 501(c)(3) decision until February of 2027.

New Gaggle Group Status: Janet Magedanz reports the “new” Trumpetvine via Gaggle is more inclusive of all email service providers, and she was able to input information smoothly.

Club Dues/Club Expenses: Cathy Kerr had previously questioned how well club dues cover expenses. The board looked over last years budget and it was determined that club dues are sufficient to cover current expenses. There is a cushion of approximately \$6,000-\$10,000.

Possible Change in Bylaws: Nancy Mandel brought up current bylaws which require overlapping two-year terms for Secretary and Treasurer. It was determined that in case of emergency, someone would step up to make sure the job was done and that no bylaw changes are needed.

Upcoming Meetings: The next member meeting will be March 02, 2026, with Tom Cook sharing gardens from around the world he has visited. This will be a ZOOM only meeting, and AI will contact Karen Hopson and Melissa Dawley to ensure that this and future ZOOM meetings are recorded. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2026 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

The meeting concluded at 3:30pm

Submitted by Becca Smith, EGC secretary